

Good News Release

Pembroke Family of Schools: Our Lady of Lourdes, Holy Name, Cathedral

March 26th, 2024

Easter is fast approaching, and students across RCCDSB Pembroke schools have been engaging in various activities leading up to and during Holy Week.

At Our Lady of Lourdes, students and staff began the Lenten season with a beautiful Ash Wednesday "Liturgy of the Word" celebrated by Father Holly. They gathered at the church to pray and reflect as they begin the time of fasting and Almsgiving. The school is also collecting non-perishable food items for the local Food Bank during Lent. In addition, students will participate in the Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday and reflect with prayer during Holy Week.

Our Lady of Lourdes' school council has a number of extra curricular activities planned for students through the winter season. The school is hosted a "Movie Night" for students on March 22nd at the school with popcorn and drinks. They are also hosting a Grade 5/6 dance in April for students, and Holy Name and Cathedral students have been invited to join as well.

After March break, students participated in a school wide St. Patrick's Day party complete with green ice cream, leprechaun scavenger hunts and an Irish Kahoot game.

On March 22nd, students engaged in their Science Fair, and the winners are encouraged to register for the Regional Science Fair at the Civic Centre in Petawawa on April 6th.

Our Lady of Lourdes is proud to be an Extended French learning school, and school Principal, Amy Sicoli would like to relay a huge thanks to Madame Diab and Madame Blain for enrolling students in grades 4-6 in "Manie Musicale", an annual international competition that includes 16 contemporary songs by Francophone artists. Our Lady of Lourdes is one of the 6,200 schools participating worldwide with more than 679,000 students voting.

Les élèves écoutent des chansons dans leurs classes. Ils découvrent l'artiste et les paroles et ils apprennent la nouvelle vocabulaire. Ils discutent des chansons et de celles ils préfèrent. Nos étudiants voteront à l'internet avec d'autres étudiants du monde entier pour déterminer quels artistes passeront au tour suivant et finalement gagneront.

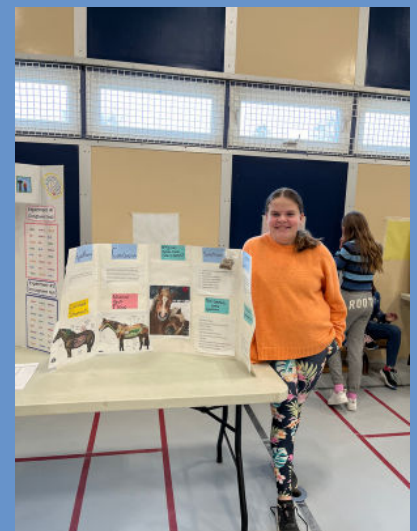
Translation:

Students listen to songs in their classes, they then discover the artist and the lyrics and they learn new vocabulary. They discuss which songs they like best and vote online with other students from around the world to determine which artists will advance to the next round and ultimately win.

Finally, Grade 6 students attended the Grade 7 orientation at Bishop Smith on March 21st. Students toured the school and learned about what opportunities are available to them during their transition to high school, including a visit to the transportation, music, and healthcare classes, and they even baked cookies in the hospitality room! A big thank you to the students at Bishop Smith for welcoming the newest learners to high school!



Manie Musicale at Our Lady of Lourdes



Science Fair at Our Lady of Lourdes



Holy Name Catholic School has had an active winter season! The beautifully mild weather has provided the opportunity to take advantage of learning outdoors and utilizing the natural outdoor spaces. Many classes have taken time for walks and outings learning about science, geography, and weather.

School Principal, Ryan Kranz, would like to share a huge thank you to the school volunteers and school council who served up a delicious shrove Tuesday meal for all students and staff! "It was great to see so many smiles on students' faces as they enjoyed their pancakes, juice and fruit. We feel so much gratitude towards our volunteers and school council for making this happen!"

The following day our school community was blessed to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass with members of the community and Father Beachey. Father Beachey's message of giving alms has continued to resonate with staff and students throughout the school community during the season of Lent.

Each day, Holy Name students demonstrate acts of kindness, respect and dignity towards others in many ways. Along with the rest of RCCDSB, Holy Name celebrated Kindness Week on the first week of March, and students were given challenges, resources, and opportunities for prayer and reflection. This week serves as a great reminder to all about the power of being kind to those around you.

To celebrate all the hard work that students have demonstrated throughout the winter months, our school held a winter carnival. Students were thrilled to enjoy the many activities such as face painting, balloon art with Mr. Dimples, musical chairs and giant inflatables in the gym.

Holy Name Catholic School is also proud to offer the extended French learning program for students in junior kindergarten to grade 3. Mr. Kranz, school Principal, shares: "If your child is of school age we would love to meet them and have them be part of our school community for the fall of 2024!"

Just before March break, Cathedral students participated in an Irish themed spirit day! They dressed up in green, gold, and white and joined in on the Morning Freeze Dance! Cathedral staff and students have embraced the excellent opportunity to participate in faith-filled learning opportunities and activities this month.

Father Do welcomed Cathedral students and staff into the Church on Ash Wednesday for Liturgy of the Word. Students had the opportunity to work with Father to deepen their faith through Lent. Students also joined for a faith walk around the Cathedral Parish. During the Virtue of the Month prayer service, each class takes turns preparing our service and presenting Virtue awards to students and staff. This month's Virtue is Forgiveness.

School spirit is present at Cathedral! The "Get your Irish On" theme led to a sea of green and learning about St. Patrick, good old Irish music and dance! Staff and students joined while our student council was busy setting up door decorating contests, Limerick competitions, outdoor recess races, and learning how to prepare for our Arctic games.

Classroom teachers and support staff continue to work hard, focusing on closing gaps in reading and math. They are very dedicated and use creative ideas to keep us on our learning track! The students were excited to get new recess games and a fantastic light pad to aid their learning success. Everyone is busy learning, from math fun to letters on whiteboards, artwork, reading, writing, and outdoor learning!

The grade 6 students recently participated in an orientation visit to Bishop Smith Catholic High School. They had so much fun, from meeting the staff and checking out the different classrooms and gym to baking cookies. They all look forward to their next visit to BSCH.

Cathedral has also kicked off its Lenten Food drive for the local food banks, continuing to remind itself of the three Lenten Pillars: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Keep up the super philanthropy work!



Grade 6 Orientation at Bishop Smith



Kindness Week at Holy Name



Holy Name Winter Carnival



Cathedral Irish Spirit Day!

Schools to believe in!